



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 August 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
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- According to the Associated Press, military leaders have suspended some activities at biological research laboratories to review safety rules for deadly germs and toxins, including how they are shipped through FedEx and other civilian carriers. (See item [19](#))
- Bloomberg reports that Denver, Colorado, and St. Paul, Minnesota, will become virtual fortresses during the Democratic and Republican nominating conventions, protected by airplanes, helicopters, barriers, fences, and thousands of police officers, National Guard troops, and Secret Service agents. (See item [36](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 22, Olympian* – (Washington) **Explosive set near power plant.** An explosive device left alongside an access track leading to TransAlta's power plant near Centralia, Washington, was picked up by an employee who did not recognize it as a bomb, the Lewis County, Washington, Sheriff's Office said Thursday. The employee transported the device in a rail truck to turn over to a supervisor Wednesday. Law enforcement agencies were sent to the scene, and the Washington State Patrol bomb squad took the device, X-rayed the tank, and removed the blasting cap. The sheriff's office described the device as a five-gallon propane tank with green and yellow wires coming out of it.

The blasting cap had been activated, but the black powder in the tank did not detonate, according to the sheriff's office. Who left the bomb at TransAlta is a mystery. No message or threat was left with it, the Sheriff's sergeant said. TransAlta Corp. is a Canadian-owned utility that operates a coal-fired electrical generating plant near where the bomb was found. A TransAlta spokeswoman would not say whether there are surveillance cameras where the bomb was placed. She also declined to say whether current or former TransAlta employees are under investigation.

Source: <http://www.theolympian.com/101/story/554800.html>

2. *August 22, Reuters* – (New York) **Power back at New York's Co-Op City.** Power returned to Co-op City, a New York City housing cooperative with some 55,000 people living in 35 high-rise buildings in the Bronx, following a short power outage affecting some buildings Friday morning. The outage left about eight buildings without power at about 7 a.m. Friday. Full power was restored by about 11 a.m., a spokeswoman at New York electric company Consolidated Edison Inc. (Con Ed) said. Con Ed could not say how many people were affected or what caused the outage since it occurred on the customer side of the power line. Co-Op City is in the process of building a \$90 million, 40-megawatt generating plant to meet its own power needs. In the past, the complex had three or four power lines from Con Ed to supply power. However, Co-Op City has disconnected some lines and now has just two connections with Con Ed. One of those two lines went down Friday morning, causing the power outage.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2239806020080822>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *August 22, KRIV 26 Houston* – (Texas) **Fire threat ends for Pasadena ammunition manufacturing facility shelter-in-place order lifted.** A storage facility where manufacturing of ammunition takes place caught fire in Pasadena. Firefighters were concerned over the potential release of sodium cyanide into the air. When the fire began, a shelter-in-place was ordered for areas northeast and southwest of the burning facility as the smoke was burning toward the east. Residents of the nearby Shaver Landing townhome complex were evacuated and were asked to relocate to South Houston High School until the shelter-in-place order was lifted. The explosions of gunpowder and other ammunition in the fire caused live powerlines to burn, which resulted firefighters to cut electricity from those cables. The Shaver Landing complex was the site of an electricity outage.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxboston.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7264762&version=2&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *August 22, Mid-Columbia Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **Columbia Generation Station goes off-line.** Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant in Washington tripped off-line Thursday when monitoring equipment on the plant's turbine generator sensed a low oil pressure condition. The power plant safely shut itself down automatically about 4 p.m. and will be off-line until its operators can identify and correct the reasons for the trip, the plant manager said in a statement Thursday night. The Columbia Generating Station had been online for 383 straight days when the trip happened.
Source: http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/287398.html
5. *August 21, Science Daily* – (New York) **Earthquakes may endanger New York more than thought; Nuclear power plant seen as particular risk.** A study by a group of seismologists, based at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, suggests that a pattern of subtle but active faults makes the risk of earthquakes to the New York City area substantially greater than formerly believed. Among other things, they say that the controversial Indian Point nuclear power plants, 24 miles north of the city, sit astride the previously unidentified intersection of two active seismic zones. The paper appears in the current issue of the Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America. The researchers found concrete evidence for one significant previously unknown structure: an active seismic zone running at least 25 miles from Stamford, Connecticut, to the Hudson Valley town of Peekskill, New York, where it passes less than a mile north of the Indian Point nuclear power plant. They say it is probably capable of producing at least a magnitude 6 quake. The lead author said the existence of the Stamford-Peekskill line had been suggested before. The findings comes at a time when Entergy, the owner of Indian Point, is trying to relicense the two operating plants for an additional 20 years – a move being fought by surrounding communities and the New York State attorney general.
Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/08/080821164605.htm>
6. *August 21, Reuters* – (California) **PG&E to replace transformer at Calif. nuclear plant.** Pacific Gas & Electric Co. has decided to replace rather than fix a main step-up transformer that caught fire earlier this week at its Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in California, a company spokeswoman said on Thursday. There is yet no schedule for the return of Unit 2 at the plant near San Luis Obispo, California, said a spokeswoman for the utility, which owns and operates the two-unit plant. She said the company still expects the outage of the plant to be short-term. She said a replacement transformer, valued at about \$2 million, is on site. It will take the place of the damaged one as soon as the cause of a Sunday fire is determined, she said. It will take several days to swap out the transformers, she said. The transformer caught fire on Sunday and caused the reactor to shut. Unit 1 of similar size at Diablo Canyon has remained in operation as Unit 2 has been out of service. Each of the Diablo Canyon reactors has three main-bank transformers. Each transformer steps up voltage from 25,000 volts to 500,000 volts and onto the regional power grid, she said. The transformers are designed to last 40 years, but in practice the industry has noted that they last 20 to 30 years, she said. The one that

burned was nine years old.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2126280020080821>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *August 21, U.S. Coast Guard* – (National) **CG launches new airborne capability.** Coast Guard Air Station Port Angeles, Washington, has commenced training select pilots and crew members for its new airborne use of force capability. This specialized training is part of the Coast Guard's enhanced homeland defense mission. The majority of training is conducted using blanks. Live fire training is conducted, but only as a scheduled event in designated Department of Defense (DOD) warning areas or land-based DOD ranges. Coast Guard crews issue a notice to mariners prior to conducting a gunnery exercise. This enhanced mission is varied in nature and threat based; a crew may provide security zone enforcement, conduct armed patrols of critical infrastructure, or provide aerial cover for vessel boarding teams. Arming select Coast Guard helicopter crews enhances the Coast Guard's ability to react to maritime security threats, better protecting the nation. This capability also provides operational commanders with an increased capability to perform maritime security duties. The arming of Coast Guard helicopter crews will not compromise the Coast Guard's legacy missions such as search and rescue or environmental response. The need to implement this capability will be on specific missions or to counter emerging threats. Coast Guard aircrews who conduct this mission are hand-selected, highly trained individuals specifically chosen for their maturity, judgment, and sound decision making skills. Their training will focus on response operations in port environments and high value asset escort operations. Source: <http://www.military.com/news/article/coast-guard-news/cg-launches-new-airborne-capability.html?col=1186032366581>
8. *August 20, infoZine* – (National) **Two former Lake City employees plead guilty to sabotage of war materials.** The United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri announced that two former employees of a firm operating at the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant in Independence, Missouri, pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday to stealing more than 16,000 pounds of copper components used to manufacture ammunition for the U.S. Army, which they sold for scrap metal. The men admitted that they participated in a conspiracy to steal specially fabricated copper components, known in the munitions industry as bullet cups, which are used to manufacture copper-jacketed 7.62 mm bullets, from the Lake City plant from September 27, 2007, through March 28, 2008. They delivered the bullet cups for destruction to the Fusselman Salvage Company in Moberly, Missouri. The diversion of bullet cups interfered with and obstructed the ability of the United States to prepare for and carry on war activities by interrupting the supply of 7.62 mm rounds of ammunition to the U.S. Army. The men diverted approximately 16,528 pounds of copper bullet cups from the Lake City plant to Fusselman Salvage Company. That amount of copper would otherwise have produced approximately 1.5 million rounds of ammunition, and amounts

to more than two weeks' production of 7.62 mm ammunition. They shared approximately \$45,362 in proceeds from salvaging the copper material, which was valued at \$78,838.

Source: <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/30069/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *August 22, Douglas Dispatch* – (Arizona) **Police respond to bomb threat at Bank of America.** A bomb threat at the Bank of America halted business for about half an hour in downtown Douglas, Arizona, Tuesday afternoon. A Douglas Police spokesman said a man called the bank and told the desk clerk, “There’s several bombs in the building.” Douglas police evacuated the bank as well as some of the surrounding buildings. The police conducted a preliminary search of the inside of the bank for any suspicious items. None were found, the official said. The Douglas police are continuing the investigation.
Source: <http://www.douglasdispatch.com/articles/2008/08/21/news/doc48add884c5017605383741.txt>
10. *August 22, CCH Wall Street* – (National) **SEC busts international stock scam.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has obtained an asset freeze against the CEO of GHL Technologies and a Barcelona, Spain stock promoter, for their roles in orchestrating a \$13-million pump-and-dump scheme. Beginning in 2005, the two suspects illegally sold millions of shares of GHL Technologies, a Bremerton, WA. GHL claimed it was in the business of installing GPS technology into emergency and commercial vehicles. The SEC has frozen several bank accounts and businesses with which Spanish fraudster was associated.
Source: <http://www1.cchwallstreet.com/ws-portal/content/news/container.jsp?fn=08-22-08>
11. *August 22, Record Journal* – (Connecticut, Kentucky) **BBB warns against credit union scam.** Connecticut Better Business Bureau (CT BBB) has learned of a scam targeting customers of the Commonwealth Credit Union. CT BBB reports the scam has made its way from Kentucky to Connecticut. Commonwealth CU has been the target of an extensive “voice-fishing” scam. A recorded message tells clients their credit cards have been suspended, asks them to call a toll-free telephone number, and once they do, they are asked for their credit card numbers to “reactivate” their accounts. Both members and non-members of Commonwealth CU have received these calls on their cell, work and home phones. The Kentucky Attorney General cautions against responding to the message. Commonwealth Credit Union confirms it never makes calls asking for personal information. On its website, Commonwealth acknowledges the voice phishing scam, and says thousands of people in Kentucky alone have been targets of these attacks. Among the toll-free numbers victims are asked to call is one based in Columbia, Connecticut.
Source: <http://www.myrecordjournal.com/site/tab1.cfm?newsid=20086944&BRD=2755&PAG=>

Transportation Sector

12. *August 22, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **American Eagle lags on safety, TSA says.**

American Eagle has failed to properly safeguard its empty aircraft from tampering at O'Hare International Airport numerous times since 2005, the Transportation Security Administration said Thursday in announcing an expanded investigation into security at the commuter carrier in Chicago. The most recent problems occurred early Tuesday when a federal security inspector successfully entered seven of nine unattended American Eagle regional jets that he attempted to access, the security agency said. The aircraft doors leading to the cabins were wide open on all nine planes, a TSA spokesman said Thursday. "In at least one photo I saw, the jet bridge was connected to the aircraft and the aircraft door was left open," he said. "The inspector simply walked inside." Despite what the TSA termed generally good security performance by airlines across the country in securing aircraft parked overnight, inspectors have "consistently found problems in this location [O'Hare] by this carrier," the agency said. American Eagle said it meets all security regulations. TSA inspectors have repeatedly found American Eagle planes improperly secured at O'Hare between July 2005 and March of this year, the agency said. American Eagle faces up to \$175,000 in fines, the agency said. The inspector was able to get into the planes by hoisting himself aboard using temperature probes mounted on the fuselage for leverage. He also commandeered unsecured passenger jetway bridges to gain entry, officials said.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-tsa-ohare_22aug22,0,2367400.story

13. *August 22, China View* – (International) **Singapore not to join U.S. secure freight initiative.**

Singapore will not take part in a U.S. plan to test out full security scanning of containers at the Singapore port. A statement by the Singapore Transport Ministry said on Friday, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has been working with several foreign ports to assess the feasibility and challenges of 100 percent scanning of containers under a trial called the Secure Freight Initiative (SFI). Singapore had agreed to work with the U.S. authority on the trial to test the feasibility in a major hub port. This was scheduled to start in the second half of the year. But the U.S. authority studied trial results and feedback from ports involved in a pilot stage of the scanning project, and then decided in April that it should focus only on high-risk trade corridors, given the limited resources available to all governmental and private sector operators. "The U.S. CBP and Government of Singapore have agreed not to proceed with the SFI trial in Singapore," said the statement.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-08/22/content_9606464.htm

14. *August 21, Daily Record* – (Maryland) **Port's high-tech IDs are causing concern.** The new Transportation Worker Identification Credential, or TWIC, card, which typically costs \$132.50, will be required for unescorted access to Baltimore's public terminals December 1. It will be phased in at ports around the country by April 2009, and will

affect port employees, longshoremen, truck drivers and thousands of other people in maritime trades. There is some concern both at terminals and within the industry that some drivers will forgo the card if they only do occasional port business, both because of the cost and the length of the process to get the new, high-tech cards. Most agree that drivers who regularly haul containers and other cargo to and from ports are likely to get TWIC cards, but the question remains as to whether long-distance drivers with more varied schedules will do the same. Some worry that could have a particularly strong effect in Baltimore, where a large portion of the cargo that arrives is broken up for distribution before it leaves the port. A recent survey by private-terminal trade group the Baltimore Port Alliance found that out of about 700 long-distance drivers who stopped at three private terminals in the Port of Baltimore, 2 percent have TWIC cards. Of those who did not have a card, 10 percent said they knew what one was. And of the drivers who knew what a TWIC card was, half said they planned to get one.

Source: <http://www.mddailyrecord.com/article.cfm?id=8360&type=UTTM>

15. *August 21, Journal Advocate* – (Colorado) **CDOT restricting hazmat traffic during DNC.** Truckers transporting shipments of hazardous materials through central Denver, Colorado, before and during the Democratic National Convention August 23-30, will be required to use alternate routes unless they are making a pickup or delivery inside city limits, a Colorado State Patrol Sergeant announced recently. He said restrictions on hazardous materials truck traffic on Interstate 25 through Denver will be in place as part of the State Patrol's and Denver Police Department's efforts to provide the highest level of safety in the area of the convention. Officers will be stopping trucks to ensure compliance with temporary routing restrictions and alternate routes determined by the Colorado State Patrol under emergency rules. Officers may cite non-compliant drivers. For details and other travel information, trucks and all traffic can consult the Colorado Department of Transportation's Web site.

Source: <http://www.journal-advocate.com/news/2008/aug/21/cdot-restricting-hazmat-traffic-during-dnc/>

16. *August 21, Associated Press* – (Alaska) **Melting Arctic Ocean opens shipping frontier.** Rapidly melting ice on Alaska's Arctic is opening up a new navigable ocean in the extreme north, allowing oil tankers, fishing vessels and even cruise ships to venture into a realm once trolled mostly by indigenous hunters. The Coast Guard expects so much traffic that it opened two temporary stations on the nation's northernmost waters, anticipating the day when an ocean the size of the contiguous United States could be ice-free for most of the summer. As it thaws, the receding ice has made ocean travel along Alaska's northern coast increasingly alluring, but ships can still be trapped by ice. Earlier in August, three oil industry vessels bound for Canada became stuck in ice about 60 miles north of Point Barrow. The Coast Guard sent the icebreaker Healy to help, but before it could arrive from 300 miles away, the wind shifted and pushed the ice apart, freeing the vessels. Because of such risks, the Coast Guard established temporary bases this month in Barrow, the country's highest-latitude town, and at the North Slope's Prudhoe Bay, the nation's largest oil field. The bases will operate for a few weeks while Guard officials evaluate the need for the agency's services. The Coast Guard is concerned that the increasing volume of ship traffic brings greater potential for oil spills,

lost boaters and other mishaps.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26335873/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *August 22, Washington Times* – (Colorado; New Hampshire) **McCain offices evacuated over suspicious letters.** Two presidential campaign offices were evacuated Thursday after receiving suspicious letters, one of which contained an unidentified white powder. A government official said a letter sent to the office of the presumptive Republican presidential nominee near Denver, Colorado, contained powder, but was being treated as a hoax and was thought to have been sent by an inmate at a nearby jail in Arapahoe County. A letter sent to the office in New Hampshire did not contain powder, but aroused suspicions of staffers who were jittery after the Denver-area office received its letter. A Secret Service spokesman said the two letters are unrelated. Despite the likelihood of a hoax, staffers at all the Arizona Republican's campaign offices nationwide were told not to open letters.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/21/inmate-may-have-sent-white-powder-mccain-office/>

18. *August 22, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Threat letter with powder sent to Florida governor.** Florida authorities are investigating a threatening letter sent to Florida's governor that contained a suspicious, but nontoxic white powder. A Florida Department of Law Enforcement spokeswoman says the letter was intercepted Wednesday at the mail center at the state capitol. Investigators believe the letter was unrelated to one containing powder that was received at a John McCain office in Colorado on Thursday. The letter sent to the governor was immediately sent to the Florida Department of Health for analysis, and preliminary results showed the substance was not harmful.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5h6HKuLB54zB21eM16AmvChJMH0YAD92N4C1G0>

19. *August 21, Associated Press* – (National) **Military halts shipment of deadly toxins.** Military leaders have suspended some activities at biological research laboratories to review safety rules for some of the world's deadliest germs and toxins, including how they are shipped through FedEx and other civilian carriers. Defense officials said the action is part of a larger review ordered when a researcher at an Army lab committed suicide last month after being told he would be charged in the 2001 anthrax attacks that killed five people. Navy and Air Force officials told The Associated Press on Thursday that they are temporarily halting shipments of dangerous biological agents to and from their medical and research labs. Companies previously had to have personnel certified by the government for handling hazardous materials and now also will have to provide two drivers for the deliveries — both with classified security clearances, said an Army spokesman. The service also is working on tightening safety procedures for commercial air shipments of biological materials. A FedEx spokeswoman said she was unaware of any changes in procedures. Shipping of dangerous materials is common, is carried out

by a number of companies, and is done by universities, research centers, and others in the civilian and military world. Accidents happen and there have been cases in which shipments have gone missing, been damaged, or lost. In one case reported to the government, plague bacteria that was supposed to be delivered to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in 2003 somehow ended up in Belgium and was incinerated safely.

Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jiuMej-NB_uebx5yj1Ytq4PKIMWQD92MVTU00

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *August 22, Stock & Land* – (International; National) **Argentine farm strike to impact on world grain prices.** A large rally of Argentine farmers on Monday has threatened yet another farm export strike. Many countries, however, still wary of doing business with Argentina after the earlier export strike, are likely to buy grain from other exporting countries, pushing up prices. The farmers are protesting economic hardships being placed on the agriculture sector, such as rising costs for fertilizer and land rents, and low and controlled domestic prices. A U.S. Farm Progress group market analyst says as Argentina approaches its crop planting season with decisions that need to be made, this could be poor timing for a possible strike that might disrupt the supply, especially, of Argentine soybeans. “If they would resume a strike now, it would certainly hurt business once again and further erode that confidence, which would be bullish for demand for U.S. soybeans.”

Source: <http://sl.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/grains-and-cropping/grains/argentine-farm-strike-to-impact-on-world-grain-prices/1251659.aspx>

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Water Sector

21. *August 21, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **Help sought on contaminated water.** In Ohio, a group fighting for the timely cleanup of a contaminated ground water plume in the vicinity of the Behr Dayton Thermal Plant asked the Dayton City Commission to take a lead in the effort. A number of citizens from Dayton and Jefferson Township said they were concerned about contamination of the city’s water, because the plume is still moving. The City Manager assured that the plume poses no risk to Dayton’s drinking water supply. And he has asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to extend its testing. The agency had said emergency action would continue until November, but cut two months off the timetable. It has been about two years since the Ohio EPA found alarming levels of toxic vapors in homes in McCook Field near the factory complex, owned by German auto parts maker Behr GmbH & Co. The U.S. EPA was disturbed enough that it started testing the air in dozens of homes. Groundwater contamination was producing soil gas laced with trichloroethylene, a suspected carcinogen.

Source:

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/n/content/oh/story/news/local/2008/08/21/ddn082108citcom.html>

22. *August 20, Vail Daily* – (Colorado) **Colo energy companies may have to track chemicals.** Members of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission endorsed a new rule on Tuesday that would require oil and gas companies to maintain records of chemicals used in the drilling and completion process at a well site. Those records may be accessed by the state. Commissioners also endorsed a rule that would limit the building of certain oil and gas facilities within 300 feet and for a distance of five miles upstream of a public water supply. Those two rules have been some of the more contentious regulations the state has proposed in its current rule-making for the state's oil and gas industry. The rule that would prohibit energy companies from constructing new oil and gas facilities within 300 feet and for a distance of five miles upstream of a public water supply has exceptions for pipelines, roads, and gathering lines. The state can grant variances to the 300-foot regulation, according to the rules.

Source: <http://www.vaildaily.com/article/20080820/NEWS/188293264/1062>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *August 22, Baltimore Sun* – (National) **Measles cases at 12-year high.** Faced with the highest number of measles cases in a dozen years, officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are warning parents to vaccinate their children to ward off further outbreaks. From January through July, 131 measles cases have been identified in 15 states and the District of Columbia - the most since 1996, the CDC announced yesterday. About half of the cases involve children whose parents refused to vaccinate them for religious or philosophical reasons. No deaths have been reported. Nevertheless, local vaccine experts joined CDC officials yesterday in alerting parents that measles is still a threat and that vaccinations are vital to stopping the spread of the highly contagious disease. As a warning, CDC officials are using statistics from countries such as Switzerland, Italy and the United Kingdom that are reporting measles outbreaks caused by failure to vaccinate. Of the 131 U.S. cases this year, 17 were people who either traveled abroad and returned with the disease or were foreign visitors to the United States.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/health/bal-te.md.measles22aug22,0,1839773.story>

24. *August 22, Journal of New England Technology* – (National) **Bay State hackers find security holes in defibrillators, RFID.** Hackers getting a free T pass may be the least of our worries — local hackers-turned-security experts suggest RFID keycards, wireless networks and medical devices implanted in the body are also vulnerable to hacks. At last week's Defcon hacker convention in Las Vegas, a team of researchers showed it was possible to get information such as Social Security numbers and medical diagnoses, and change the settings on an implantable defibrillator by impersonating the computer it communicates with wirelessly. By doing so, a hacker could send a fatal shock to a

patient's heart, said a presenter from the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Such devices are becoming more common and are transmitting over greater and greater distances. Other implantable devices, such as spinal cord stimulators, cochlear implants, insulin pumps and artificial hearts, could be similarly vulnerable to hacking, he said.

Source: <http://www.masshightech.com/stories/2008/08/18/weekly15-Bay-State-hackers-find-security-holes-in-difibrilators-RFID.html>

25. *August 21, Miami Herald* – (Kansas) **Medicare hid fraud, report says.** Medicare officials may have manipulated their 2006 audit to mislead Congress about the agency's fight against fraud in the medical equipment industry, according to a damning inspector general report expected to be released early next week. Some veteran members of Congress said Thursday they felt deceived by the agency managing the giant entitlement program for the elderly and predicted lawmakers would hold oversight hearings in the fall to grill Medicare officials. A draft of the report said Medicare boasted it was gaining control over fraud, waste and abuse in the health insurance program, when in fact the agency's payment error rate was four times higher than it was touting for medical equipment reimbursements, according to a leading lawmaker. The actual error rate: 31.5 percent.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/548/story/652782.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

26. *August 22, Salinas Californian* – (California) **Bomb scare empties Salinas courthouse.** A bomb scare Thursday morning led authorities to evacuate hundreds of people from the Salinas, California, courthouse and Monterey County administration building. Both remained closed for three hours. The County administrative officer announced that at about 10 a.m. someone called a clerk and warned that a bomb would go off in 20 minutes. The Salinas police commander said an unidentified man placed the call to the county Recorder's Office. Based on the caller's statement, he said, officers believe the threat had been directed toward the courthouse. He could not say why the caller did not call the courthouse directly.

Source:

<http://thecalifornian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080822/NEWS01/808220311/1002>

27. *August 21, MetroWest Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Marlborough courthouse reopens.** In Massachusetts, the Marlborough District Court reopened late this morning after it was evacuated early this morning and the state bomb squad was called in to inspect the building, officials said. Police said nothing suspicious was found and court is back in session. Police and court officials at the courthouse would not say what prompted the evacuation or if any threats had been made. Witnesses said officials emptied the courthouse just before 9 a.m.

Source: <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/homepage/x633542219/Marlborough-courthouse-evacuated>

Emergency Services Sector

28. *August 22, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **State news of national interest.** A state legislative audit found that fewer than eight of the state's 12 Medevac helicopters were available on 51 days of fiscal year 2007 because of maintenance issues. The audit also was unable to verify how often emergency missions were completed in the "Golden Hour," the period that a critically injured person is believed to need medical attention to prevent irreparable damage.
Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/08/22/america/State-Spotlight.php>
29. *August 21, Army News Service* – (Florida; National) **Fay underscores need for 'Ready Army.'** As Tropical Storm Fay danced back and forth from Gulf Coast waters into Florida communities, 100 attendees of the Army Emergency Management's annual workshop for installation preparedness wrapped up their week-long meeting in Tampa, Florida, and Army officials announced a new emergency-preparedness initiative: Ready Army. The program is intended to "get the entire Army community ready for emergencies," said the chief of the Asymmetrical Warfare Office's Protection Division. The Ready Army Campaign kicks off September 2, in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security's National Preparedness Month, which encompasses the seventh anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.
Source: <http://www.military.com/news/article/army-news/fay-underscores-need-for-ready-army.html?col=1186032369115>
30. *August 21, Army News Service* – (Florida) **State of emergency declared in Washington County for Fay.** Emergency services across the Florida Panhandle are preparing for Tropical Storm Fay, and Washington County is no exception. The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved declaring a state of emergency at a special called meeting Thursday afternoon, with the declaration taking effect at 6 a.m. Friday, Aug. 22.
Source:
http://www.chipleypaper.com/news/state_2174_article.html/chipley_washington.html
31. *August 21, KWCH 12 Wichita* – (Kansas) **Firefighter says new 911 system doesn't work.** A Wichita firefighter told a local news station that flaws in a new 911 system that Sedgwick County installed in April are causing station alarms not to sound or fire crews from the wrong address being sent out. He says the new system has resulted in one dispatch mistake after another. In July, when a home on North Prince Street in Wichita caught fire it took seven minutes for fire crews to be dispatched. Some neighbors called multiple times because they did not think the fire department was coming. The national standard says calls should be dispatched in about 60 seconds. 911 officials blame the delay on a computer glitch. An internal Wichita Fire Department communication states: "Because of recent problems, every station will monitor at least one radio 24-7."
Source: <http://www.kwch.com/Global/story.asp?S=8882464>

Information Technology

32. *August 21, InformationWeek* – (International) **DNS flaw used to poison Chinese ISP's server.** The DNS cache on the default DNS server used by China Netcom, one of the country's largest Internet service providers (ISPs), has been poisoned, said computer security company Websense on Tuesday. China Netcom customers who mistype a Web address and enter an invalid domain name get directed to a Web page with malicious code, the company said. The malicious destination page includes an iframe that points to a server in China that attempts to exploit Adobe's Flash player, MS06-014 (Microsoft Data Access Components), MS08-041 (Microsoft Snapshot Viewer), and RealPlayer, if present on the victim's computer. According to the manager of Websense security labs, the DNS poisoning was carried out by exploiting the weakness in DNS software discussed at the recent Black Hat security conference in Las Vegas. The issue is that many popular DNS software packages fail to randomize transmission ports sufficiently, which could allow a knowledgeable attacker to alter, or poison, DNS cache information. The result is that Internet users relying on compromised DNS servers could see their e-mail traffic hijacked or could be sent to a malicious Web site.

Source:

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=210200076>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

33. *August 22, Eureka Times-Standard* – (California) **Second fiber optic cable on the way.** After years of discussion and unreliable Internet service – including four outages in a one-year span – Eureka county may soon have a backup to its sole fiber optic lifeline to the outside world. At the fourth annual Redwood Coast Rural Action Broadband Forum, held Thursday at Fortuna's River Lodge, former Redwood Region Economic Development Commission executive director announced that a project is under way to install a secondary fiber optic line. The project was initiated by Lost Coast Communications and is being financed by private Bay Area telecommunications company IP Networks Inc. Target customers for the secondary line service will be large institutions and Internet service providers, including local cable and Internet provider Suddenlink Communications, which has already gotten onboard with the project.
- Source: http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_10273484

34. *August 21, IDG News Service* – (National) **Nokia admits security flaws in Series 40**

OS. Nokia Corp. confirmed Thursday that its widely used Series 40 operating system has security vulnerabilities that could allow stealth installation and activation of applications. Nokia said some of its Series 40 products are vulnerable to an attack that could result in the secret installation of applications. The company said it has also found earlier versions of J2ME could allow privilege escalation or access to phone functions that should be restricted. Nokia said it isn't aware of attacks against Series 40 devices, and the problems do not represent a "significant risk."

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9113158&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

35. *August 20, Ars Technica* – (National) **FCC Order scolds Comcast for changing story on P2P blocking.** Comcast has 30 days to disclose the details of its "unreasonable network management practices" to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the agency warned Wednesday morning as it released its full 67-page Order. As the FCC chair said it would, the Commission's Order rejects the ISP giant's insistence that its handling of peer-to-peer applications was necessary. "We conclude that the company's discriminatory and arbitrary practice unduly squelches the dynamic benefits of an open and accessible Internet," the agency declares. In addition, the company's "failure" to publicly reveal its true practices has "compounded the harm," the Commission says. Beyond the 30-day deadline, Comcast must send the FCC a plan explaining how it will mend its ways by the end of the year, and do so by then. It must also disclose what the company's new network management system will look like.

Source: <http://arstechnica.com/news/ars/post/20080820-fcc-order-solds-comcast-for-changing-story-on-p2p-blocking.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

36. *August 22, Bloomberg* – (Colorado; Minnesota) **Security makes U.S. conventions virtual fortresses.** Two U.S. cities will become virtual fortresses during the Democratic and Republican nominating conventions, protected by airplanes, helicopters, barriers, fences, and thousands of police officers, National Guard troops, and Secret Service agents. In Denver, Colorado, where Democrats assemble next week, police are spending \$18 million on equipment alone and will be bolstered by National Guard troops and hundreds of officers from surrounding suburbs. In St. Paul, Minnesota, site of the September 1-4 Republican nominating convention, police are calling on 80 law-enforcement agencies to provide 3,000 officers to supplement the city's 500-person force. The federal money is being spent for security measures such as fencing and high-tech camera-surveillance systems. More than 1,000 National Guard troops will help with communication and supplies in Denver, said a spokesman for the Colorado National Guard. More than 1,000 Minnesota National Guard troops will help provide security at sites outside the Xcel Center that are being used by convention participants, said a Guard spokesman. The North American Aerospace Defense Command, based at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, will also participate. The Federal Bureau of Investigation plans to use a new version of a computer network that lets all its branch

offices build leads on cases. The Coast Guard will monitor the Mississippi River near the Xcel Energy Center.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601070&sid=aJgx7Uji1acI&refer=home>

37. *August 21, New York Times* – (New York) **Fire, not explosives, felled 3rd tower on 9/11, report says.** The lead investigator from the National Institute of Standards and Technology stated that the institute's findings were released on the collapse of 7 World Trade Center on Thursday as part of a 915-page report resulting from the work of more than 50 federal investigators and a dozen contractors over three years. The investigators determined that debris from the falling twin towers damaged structural columns and ignited fires on at least ten floors at 7 World Trade Center, which stood about 400 feet north of the twin towers. The fires on six of the lower floors burned with particular intensity because the water supply for the sprinkler system had been cut off and the Fire Department, devastated by the collapse of the twin towers, stopped trying to fight the blaze. Investigators determined that the heat from the fire caused girders in the steel floor of 7 World Trade Center to expand. As a result, steel beams underneath the floors that provided lateral support for the tower's structural columns began to buckle or put pressure against the vertical structural columns. The investigators determined that the fire that day was fed mainly by office paper and furnishings.

Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/22/nyregion/22wtccnd.html?_r=2&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1219414058-u9kMiAyGRQLc7gytoaYbgw&pagewanted=all&oref=slogin

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

38. *August 22, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Men banned from national parks after vandalism.** A man from Somerville, Massachusetts, and his friend who went around the country this year removing typographical errors from public signs have been banned from national parks after vandalizing a historic marker at the Grand Canyon. Each pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Flagstaff after damaging a rare, hand-painted sign in Grand Canyon National Park. They were sentenced to a year's probation, during which they cannot enter any national park, and were ordered to pay restitution. While at Desert View Watchtower on the South Rim on March 28, they were accused of using a whiteout product and a permanent marker to deface a sign that is a National Historic Landmark. An affidavit by a National Park Service agent said investigators learned of the vandalism from an Internet site operated by the Somerville man on behalf of the Typo Eradication Advancement League (TEAL). According to the Internet posting, TEAL members agreed to stamp out as many typos as they could find in public signage and other venues. In addition to being banned from national parks for a year, the two are barred from modifying any public signs and must pay \$3,035 to repair the Grand Canyon sign.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2008/08/22/men_banned_from_national_parks_after_vandalism/

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Dams Sector

39. *August 22, WEAU 13 Eau Claire* – (Wisconsin) **People evacuated after partial levee failure.** Friday morning at approximately 12:20 a.m., Badger Mining Corporation Taylor Wash Associates on a routine inspection discovered the partial failure of an earthen pond levee on the West portion of the property. No breach of the levee has occurred, but all precautions are being taken. The primary concern is the safety of associates and neighbors. Efforts are underway to alleviate the problem. The Jackson and Trempealeau County Sheriff and Highway Departments are assisting. The Mine Safety and Health Administration, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Jackson and Trempealeau County Emergency Management Teams were notified and are currently on-site. Several residents of the affected area have evacuated as a precautionary measure. Local government officials have been contacted and have been implementing plans should the threat level increase.

Source: <http://www.weau.com/news/headlines/27226819.html>

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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